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PROGRESS OF WORK ON THE CROSSLEY DOME.

The present winter has been a very open one, and it has been possible to do a considerable amount of work on the CROSSLEY Dome by choosing favorable days. A solid brick pier has been built to receive the iron mounting. A new iron base-plate to receive the former base-plate has been cast, and is now in place on the pier. Its function is to change the inclination of the polar-axis from that at Halifax ($53^{\circ} 40'$) to that required at Mt. Hamilton ($37^{\circ} 20'$). It was made in San Francisco, under the direction of Messrs. PERCY & HAMILTON, architects. It weighs about 1700 pounds.

The track is in place, bolted to the stone cap, and level. The rolling gear and bottom ring of the dome were placed on the track March 13th. The two main girders and several of the smaller ribs are now (March 21st) in place. In a few days the workmen will commence to rivet the covering on the ribs. In a few weeks all the heavy work of erecting the dome and mounting will be finished.

It is worthy of note that the large derrick and all the necessary machinery have been made by the mechanics of the Observatory (Mr. MACDONALD, machinist; Mr. BANE, carpenter,) and that the whole business of handling the heavy pieces and securing them in place has been done by the Observatory workmen, without employing any mechanics from the outside.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

Mt. HAMILTON, March 21, 1896.

HONOR CONFERRED ON PROFESSOR HOLDEN.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Venezuela has transmitted to the Director of the LICK Observatory the diploma of the Order of BOLIVAR ("Orden del Busto del Libertador"), III Class, conferred by the President of the Republic, February 24, 1896, for services to science. This order was founded by the Republic of Peru in 1825, and adopted by Venezuela in 1854. The decoration of the III Class is bestowed upon Presidents of States, and presiding officers of their legislative assemblies; on the Rectors of the Universities; the Judges of High Courts of Justice, etc.